



Castration Aftercare Instructions

Instructions:

- For the first 24 hours keep your gelding quiet in a stall or small paddock. Monitor hourly for the first 4-6 hours for excessive bleeding or any evidence of tissue hanging out of the incisions. This quiet period decreases the chance of excessive bleeding.
- Exercise: After the initial 24 hours, you will need to exercise your gelding for at least 30 minutes a day for the next 10 days. Walking around is not sufficient exercise and you may have to force him to trot or canter at first. He can also be turned out as much as possible for self-exercise. Exercise helps encourage drainage and decrease swelling. Significant swelling indicates that exercise should be increased.
- Temperature – Monitor rectal temperature daily or if patient seems to not be feeling well or have excessive swelling. Temp should be less than 101.5F. Please call if it is elevated.
- The incisions should be evaluated daily for the first 2 weeks for signs of excessive swelling or signs of infection.
- Do not turn out your gelding with mares for 6 weeks post-surgery.

Things to Watch For:

Bleeding – Some bleeding is going to occur during the first 24 hours. Bleeding faster than a steady drip (1 drop per 1 second) for longer than an hour - Call the clinic immediately. Any bleeding after 24 hours warrants a call to the clinic.

Tissue Hanging out of the Incision – Small tissue tags are commonly present at the incision and may hang out of the incision site. However any tissue that resembles intestine constitutes an emergency – Call the clinic immediately.

Excessive Swelling - Swelling in the scrotal area or in the sheath is common post castration. However if the swelling suddenly increases and becomes excessive this may indicate that the incisions have closed prematurely or that there is infection present. Please call the clinic to discuss with a doctor.

Lethargy/Depression – It is understandable that your gelding may not feel normal a day or two after surgery. However if at any point he won't move, won't eat or has a rectal temperature >101.5F please call the clinic. This could indicate an infection.